



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

APVR-AVN-CO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, AVIATION TASK FORCE ALASKA
1060 GAFFNEY ROAD #8900
FORT WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA 99703-8900




1 March 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL AVIATION TASK FORCE PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Policy Letter #4 (Safety Guidance)

1. PURPOSE: To advise all members of this command on my safety guidance and outline your role in supporting the unit's safety program.
2. APPLICABILITY: This policy applies to all personnel assigned or attached to this command.
3. GENERAL: Safety is the cornerstone of this unit's capability to execute missions, perform daily operations and preserve our resources – people and equipment. I cannot articulate a safety policy with this one page memorandum. Safety isn't penmanship; it's leadership. Safety must exist in the minds of every Soldier. It embodies everything we do – from the routine daily tasks to the complex wartime aviation missions. Safety must also carry forward into our personal lives, particularly in POV operations.
4. GUIDANCE: There are three key elements of our safety program: **Leadership, Standards, and Discipline.**
 - a. Leadership. Many accidents are a direct result of insufficient leadership. Leaders at all echelons must be involved in the proper training and supervision of our Soldiers. Leaders must assess, control and supervise all operations, both routine and complex, from planning through execution. Leaders must be versed in the composite risk management process and understand their vital role in identifying and controlling risk.
 - b. Standards. Our standards are clear – the charge is compliance. An accident will occur if we don't know, ignore, or deviate from the rules. I expect leaders to hold Soldiers accountable for their failure to uphold a standard.
 - c. Discipline. As a military organization and as an aviation command, we will pride ourselves on precision and professionalism. Our business is unforgiving; we must be disciplined in everything we do. Accountability again applies – leaders must enforce discipline in all aspects of military and personal conduct.
5. This serves as my mandatory safety policy letter. You may choose to post it, file it, or throw it away. The paper is unimportant. The message is indispensable: Leadership, Standards, and Discipline. If our leaders are properly training and supervising, if we abide by our standards, and if we are disciplined in everything we do – this will continue to be a safe unit. Arctic Talons!


JOHN C. BUSS
COL, AV
Commanding